

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Rossford City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting
Held June 5, 2017

ROLL CALL: Staczek, Eckel, Marquette, Wagner, Minarcin all present. Mr. Ruse and Mr. Oberdorf were absent.

In the absence of Mr. Oberdorf a motion to appoint Mr. Marquette chairperson was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Staczek. All ayes except for Mr. Marquette who abstained. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Scott gave a power point presentation on the recommendations of the public works committee, an updated five year road plan, and finance options (see written report).

After the completion of the PowerPoint presentation Bob Williams of the Mannik & Smith Group summarized the updated five year road plan. He said this was updated from the 2014 plan which was based on the ODOT scoring method. He noted that before the Colony roads are redone that an improved storm sewer system should be installed as the current system is inadequate. Mr. Wagner questioned why the Colony curbs would be replaced with rolled curbs as those will be damaged by cars going over. Mrs. Eckel responded that the thought was the Colony Association wanted to maintain the same curbs. Mr. Wagner questioned if assessments would be warranted if the curbs were changed. Mr. Minarcin asked what FDR was and was told by Mr. Williams that is full depth reclamation where they reuse the torn up material as the base with new asphalt on top. This is 20% cheaper than reconstruction which involves trucking out the old materials.

Mr. Scott said the finance options are 1) a tax reciprocity of 50% which raises \$500,000 or .25% which generates \$375,000, 2) a property tax levy with one mill generating \$100,000 in tax revenue with a five year maximum term unless tied to a bond, 3) a storm water utility assessment of \$3.00 per each equivalent residential unit which would bring in \$377,000 a year or \$3.50 per ERU generating \$440,000 a year which can only be used for storm water funding but does free up some money from the general fund, and 4) reducing the general fund reserve from 10 months to a 7 month level which would allow borrowing up to \$3M but could cause the bond rating to go from AAA to AA.

Mr. Wagner asked if the tax reciprocity ordinance is passed as an emergency does that prevent it being challenged by a referendum and Mr. Heban said in all likelihood it would.

Mr. Scott said reducing the reserve to a three month level is problematic.

Mr. Marquette asked for council's thoughts and said he is favor of a storm water assessment, reducing the reserve, and some level of a tax levy. He said he is dead against the tax reciprocity ordinance.

Mr. Wagner said he is fully against the tax reciprocity ordinance but said we should consider raising the personal income tax by .25% from 2.25 to 2.50% which Mrs. Freeman tells him would generate about \$450,000 a year with all that money dedicated to roadwork and will effects everyone who lives and works here.

Mrs. Eckel said a certain percentage of people will be against anything whatever we give them to vote on.

Mr. Wagner said yes there will be some people that will vote against anything but when presented the right choice they stepped up and passed the school levy.

Mr. Minarcin said he would utilize reducing the reserve plus a 2 or 3 mill road levy along with the \$150,000 we budget annually for roads.

Mr. Staczek said he is strongly against the tax reciprocity ordinance and disagrees that it is the same four or five people who oppose everything. He said four or five people did take the initiative to come up with a referendum against the last tax reciprocity which the city tried to shove down their throats, that he is in favor of a tax levy and reducing the reserve. He said we need to consider apologizing to the Hillside drive people if we allow unimproved streets to be repaved without curbs and sidewalks. He is also against a sales tax for an outside entity but that should be an option for our community.

Mr. Scott said that TARTA is looking at a ½% sales tax and eliminating the property tax levy. The downside is that the levy collected in the Crossroads currently goes to the TIF. The upside is they would pledge to return to us 25% of whatever they collected from Rossford in sales tax which in rough numbers would generate \$150,000 for the general fund.

Mrs. Eckel said that as far as Hillside Drive that the public works committee always thought that unimproved streets should be improved but that is council's decision if want to change. She is in favor of property tax levy but is disappointed that Mrs. Freeman had no numbers available for today.

Mr. Marquette noted that like Lewis Avenue residents did, the option is always there to petition for road improvements on an assessment basis.

Mr. Wagner moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Gregory Marquette
Chairperson

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council